

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the examiner for the courtesy extended to the undersigned representative during the telephone interview that took place on July 13, 2009. During the telephone interview, there was discussion regarding the examiner's rejection of claim 15. Applicant's representative did not make specific proposals for amendment of the claims. There was no agreement reached regarding allowability of claims.

The examiner has objected to the specification for failing to recite the limitations of claim 30. Claim 30 (through its dependency on claim 29) requires that the fluxing agent be added to a slag on top of a steel heat in an amount that partly or totally corresponds to the requirement of CaF_2 in order to achieve a desired fluxing effect. Page 4, lines 15-18 of the application as originally filed supports the limitation of claim 29 in its reference to "...production of a steel heat and decarburization of the steel heat, whereby a slag is formed on top of said steel heat...[and] a product according to the invention is added to said slag." The paragraph starting at page 4, line 2 has been amended to specify that the product is added as a fluxing agent in an amount that partly or totally corresponds to the requirement of CaF_2 in order to achieve a desired fluxing effect. Accordingly, the specification as now amended recites the limitations of claim 30.

Claims 15, 20, 29, 30, 33 and 34 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph.

With regard to the examiner's specific objection to claim 15, claim 15 has now been amended to recite an upper limit. Applicant believes that this amendment removes the examiner's specific objection to claim 15 and thereby the basis for the rejections of the dependent claims 20, 29, 30, 33, and 34. This amendment also removes the examiner's specific objection to claim 34, since claim 34 is dependent on claim 15, which specifies an upper limit to the temperature range.

Claims 21 and 25 are now amended to recite that the flux is produced by a method that comprises the steps recited in claim 15. Applicant therefore requests that the withdrawn claims 21-28 should be rejoined.

All objections and rejections have been addressed. Applicant therefore submits that all claims are allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

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